

SAID TO BE OLDEST CITY IN THE WORLD

Damascus Known to Have Been a Place of Consequence in the Time of Abraham—Fierce Conflicts in Battle and Massacres Within Its Walls.

(Special Correspondence.)

Amid varied attractions of the low-lying east none, perhaps, presents more charming pictures of oriental life than the city of Damascus, with its tinkling fountains, its wealth of fruit and flowers, its sunny courtyards, where the art of man vies with the skill of nature in developing great beauty, and its gilded and luxurious interiors, where life may well be likened to a dream.

The site of this ancient city, believed by many writers to be the oldest in the world and which was a place of some consequence in the time of Abraham, is 136 miles north-

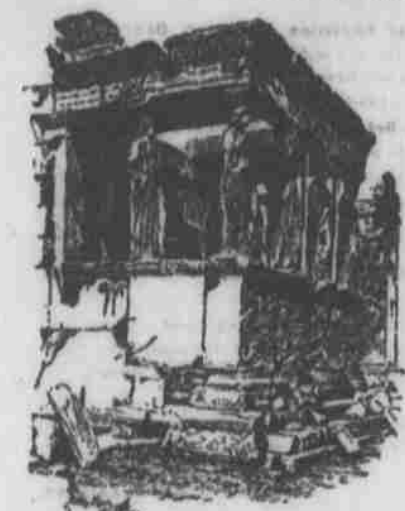
near to the scene in a manner to charm the beholder.

Near the principal bazar stands a Gothic arch raised by the early Christians when building a church as a repository for that sacred relic—the head of St. John the Baptist. Tradition says that the body of St. Paul was buried beneath a wall of the city. Other historic and sacred spots are the house of Neaman, now a hospital for lepers, the scene of St. Paul's conversion to Christianity, the house of Ananias, and the sanctuary of Abraham, which is three miles north of the city.

In the dim and distant past no city endowed as was Damascus with its health-giving mountain air, its beautiful natural surroundings, and its ease of access for purposes of trade, could long expect to escape the hand of the despoiler. The clash of religious enthusiasts, too, still further added to the insecurity of its inhabitants. Century after century has witnessed fierce and bloody conflicts in battle without and massacre within its ancient walls. Its history abounds with romantic incidents and tales of horror. From Antony to Cleopatra it passed as a love gift. By Tiberius it was bestowed upon Herod the Great. During the reign of Saladin, whose richly decorated tomb is yet pointed out as one of the sights of the city, it was the center of art and learning.

During the siege of Tamerlane—better known as Timour the Tartar—which occurred early in the fifteenth century, the inhabitants resisted so stubbornly as to arouse his deepest wrath. The moment he had obtained access to the city, by reason of its surrender, he gave the command for indiscriminate massacre. His anger was not appeased until the extensive libraries and the magnificent palaces lay in ruins.

In 1516 it was the object of an attack under Selim I, Sultan of Turkey, who added it to the Turkish empire. Ibrahim Pasha wrested it from Turkey in 1832, adding the unfortunate city to the pashalik of Egypt, but restored it in 1840. In 1859 the Druses, a peculiar religious sect, began a per-



Part of Ancient Temple.

east of Jerusalem, and about forty-five miles east of the Mediterranean. Here, in a very fertile plain 2,334 feet above the sea level, a plain so remarkable for its beauty as to be termed in oriental phrase one of the four terrestrial paradises, this quaint old city was commenced by man at a time so remote as to be lost in the mists of antiquity. For many miles the city is surrounded by fertile fields and gardens which are watered by sparkling streams and rivulets flowing from the adjacent high range of Anti-Libanus.

In strong contrast to its beautiful setting the city, like most oriental cities, seems dingy and repulsive when viewed at short range. Many



View of Athens. The Acropolis.

of the streets seem to have been built for the passage of but one loaded donkey at a time. Think of the upper stories being so projected over the street that the occupants on one side can shake hands with their neighbors across the way! Such streets appear like tunnels and compare but illy with the broad, clean streets of our modern cities. Even the homes of the wealthy have a dirty, uncared-for appearance on their exteriors, though once within the walls one is astonished at the luxury and lavish adornment everywhere displayed—the whole forming a strange contrast of magnificence and misery wrong side out, as judged by our standard.

Like an oasis in the desert the mart of trade appears as a bright spot



Church at Thessalonica.

(In this edifice, according to tradition, St. Paul once preached.)

amid the dearthness of this somber-hued expanse. Its covered streets, like our modern arcades, are lined with booths in which rich stuffs from many lands are displayed; heavy brocades richly interwoven with silk and gold; other products of the loom which are light and feathery and have the many-hued colorings of the dew-spangled tent-spider's silken product; rich carpets from Central Asia; gayly colored shawls from Hindustan and Cashmere, and precious gems from Persia, Arabia and the Gulf of Oman—all add their bright-

secution of the Christians in that part of Lebanon near Damascus, and many of the victims fled to the city for safety. Shortly afterward the Mohammedans there, at a given signal, rose in a body and commenced a general massacre of the unfortunate refugees. Hundreds who fled out of the city were overtaken and killed. It is estimated that at this time 3,000 adult male Christians were murdered, and many of the women and girls were reduced to slavery.

Thus has the ancient city of Damascus struggled for existence, Hebrews, Assyrians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Saracens—each have been its rulers at some period, while to-day it is controlled by the Turks. Still, under every change of dynasty and every form of government, Damascus, unlike most cities, has retained its prosperity and is to-day a busy city of 150,000 Mohammedans and Druses, 15,000 Christians and 5,000 Jews.

Argument for Segregation.

The differences in degrees in maturity between boys and girls in the freshman year is a fundamental reason for segregation, according to a statement just issued by Dr. W. R. Harper, president of the University of Chicago. Dr. Harper says: "When thrown together in a new environment on entrance to the university boys and girls become conscious of differences unnoticed, and the personal element creeps in too strongly for the best work." In the secondary school this is not the case, for the reason that the boys and girls there have been growing up together and do not notice that one group matures earlier than the other."

The Queer Sex.

Parker—Are you fond of traveling? Kerwin—No, but my wife is. She insists on moving every six or eight weeks.

A MOST POPULAR SPEECH.

Effort of New York Clubman That Has Become Historic.

It was at a dinner at the Tilden club. Several men had responded to toasts, when finally a clubman well known in society, something of a first-nighter, and who practices law when the mood is on him, was called on for a speech. He is known as a raconteur, but his ability to entertain a crowd is rather that of a story teller when demi-tasse and cigars are served than as an orator with sonorous delivery. He is quite wealthy.

"Gentlemen," he began, "I do not know why I have been called on for a speech. The honor should have been awarded to others. However, I have one qualification. It is that I know how to be brief."

"Gentlemen, this is all I have to say. It is a speech in five words, and here it is: 'Let me pay the bill.'"

The applause which followed the short speech can be imagined. It was unquestionably the greatest after-dinner speech that had ever been delivered in the Tilden club. It has become historic.—New York Mail and Express.

THE SCENE WAS CHANGED.

Loving Husband Not So Ready With His Autograph.

He kissed devotedly the hand that passed him the autograph album, and wrote therein:

"I write my name upon this virgin page. Would that I could inscribe it upon the purer scroll of your heart in that invisible ink which shall only appear when the thing upon which it is written is warmed at the fires of love which takes no note of time!"

That as a year ago. They are married now, and when she asks him for his autograph, in the shape of a goodly sized check, to liquidate her millinery bill, he grasps that album or a larger book, if handy, and threatens to throw it at her.

His Appetite.

In a recent book on gastronomy appears this anecdote of the gastronomic prowess of a Swiss guard in the employment of the Marechal de Villars: "One day the guard was sent for by the marechal, who had heard of his enormous appetite. 'How many sirloins of beef can you eat?' he tentatively asked. 'Ah, monseigneur, for me I don't require many—five or six at the most.' 'And how many legs of mutton?' 'Legs of mutton?—not many—seven to eight.' 'And fat pullets?' 'Oh, as to pullets, only a few—a dozen.' 'And of pigeons?' 'As to pigeons, monseigneur, not many—forty, perhaps fifty.' 'And larks?' 'Larks, monseigneur?—always.'"

Wedding Cake Disaster.

Paris the other day enjoyed the unusual sight of a cake five feet four inches in height being carried solemnly along the streets by two men, with a third walking behind. One of them slipped, and the majestic piece of confectionery was crushed to pieces upon the tram-line. The cake belonged to a young Pole, and was for his wedding breakfast. It is one of the customs of Poland for the groom to give a cake exactly as tall as the bride. The exile had the utmost difficulty in getting his order attended to in Paris, and he shed bitter tears when the cake was ruined.

A Strange Act of Faith.

In 1856 the Kaffirs of the Xosa tribe were converted by a medicine man, who induced them to slaughter their cattle and destroy their corn, promising that new herds, which no man could number, would on a certain day spring from the soil. They obeyed his teaching to the letter, and a hideous famine which all but exterminated the tribe was the natural consequence. Rarely on this earth has any race enjoyed the tremendous exaltation through which this tribe must have passed before it perpetrated its stupendous act of faith.

A Serious Consideration.

In his "Random Reminiscences," Charles H. E. Brookfield says that his great uncle, Henry Hallam, the historian, was invited by Tennyson to be godfather to his first boy. Hallam readily consented. As they were walking up the churchyard, side by side, the historian inquired of Tennyson, "What name do you mean to give him?" "We thought of calling him Hallam," said the poet. "Oh, had you not better call him Alfred?" modestly suggested the historian. "Ay," replied the bard, "but what if he should turn out a fool?"

Triple Vaccination in France.

The French government has just promulgated a new code of sanitary regulations. This code among other regulations contains the remarkable proviso, that for the future three vaccinations instead of one as hitherto shall be obligatory upon all French citizens. The first is to be made during the first year of infancy, the second in the eleventh year, and the third in the twenty-first.

HOW A SNAKE MOVES.

Wonderful Rib Formation of the Unpopular Reptile.

Now any one who has looked at the skeleton of a snake—and it is really a very beautiful object—will have been struck by the great number of ribs, which may be as many as ten hundred and fifty pairs. In these lies the secret of the ability of the serpent to do some of the wonderful things. The lower end of each rib is connected with one of the broad scales that run along the under side of the snake, and when a rib is twisted slowly backward, it pushes on the scale, the edge of the scale catches on the ground or whatever object his snakeship may be resting on, and the body of the snake is pushed just a little bit forward. Of course, each rib moves the body but a mere trifle, but where the ribs are so many, and they are moved one after another, the result is that the snake moves slowly but steadily ahead.—St. Nicholas.

KEEP A CHEERFUL MIND.

The One Way to Obtain Victory Over Adversity.

To be cheerful when the world is going well with you is no great virtue. The thing is to be cheerful under disadvantageous circumstances. If one has lost money, if business prospects fall, if enemies appear triumphant, if there is sickness of self or those dear to one, then is it, indeed, a virtue to be cheerful. When poverty pinches day after day, month after month or through the years as they pass, and one has ever to deny self of every little longing for luxury, and the puzzle of how to make one dollar do the work of two has to be solved, then the man who can still be cheerful is a hero. He is a greater hero than the soldier who faces the cannon's mouth. Such cheerfulness is the kind that we need to cultivate.—Milwaukee Journal.

Living Conditions in Egypt.

A traveler of the upper Nile thus describes a typical native village: "The houses are built of Nile mud, each house accommodating a family of no matter what size, the inhabitants of each village almost all related to each other, comprising sometimes several hundreds of people. Their streets are littered with filth, animals of every kind obstruct one's path, dogs growl and snarl at the appearance and intrusion of a stranger, women rush about, hiding their faces in their yashmaks lest a white man should behold their features. Flies in swarms settle on the children and lay their eggs on their eyelids, unwashed, because they believe it to be contrary to their religion to wash or remove the flies from their eyes."

Richest Cathedral in the World.

The Cathedral of St. Isaac, in St. Petersburg, which was recently robbed of about £5,000 worth of diamonds, is considered to be the richest cathedral in the world. It cost more than £2,500,000 to build. The gold alone used for gilding and ornamenting the interior amounted to about three and a half hundredweight. All the vessels of this sacred edifice are composed entirely of gold and silver and weigh about four tons. The interior of the building is most gorgeous, and contains a great number of statues, mosaics, bas-reliefs and precious "ikons," or holy pictures, which are of great age, and are supposed to possess miraculous powers.

How It Really Happens.

"Johnny," cautiously inquired Mr. Sixweek of her little brother, when he called the other evening—"she" was putting the finishing touches to her toilet upstairs—"have you—er—does your—er—do you—er—ever hear your sister speak of me?" "You can't pump me," promptly replied Johnny. "I don't butt into my sister's business." Then Johnny picked a shiny stick out of the hall rack and went out. This is the way it happens in 999 cases out of 1,000, but the funnyists for the colored supplements could never be clubbed into believing it.—Exchange.

The Needs of Africa.

Lord Cromer, speaking at Khartoum of the needs of the country, recently said: "Except sand, crocodiles and hippopotami, all of which there appears to be a superabundant supply, there is not enough of anything in the Sudan." If the region could exchange its hippopotami, crocodiles and sand for railways, educated natives and "dust"—to use a colloquialism for money—it would be reasonably happy and prosperous. This is the problem of commerce the world over—to exchange what one does not want for what one needs.

Steel and Sea Water.

When steel is exposed to the action of sea water and the weather it is said to corrode at the rate of an inch in eighty-two years; an inch of iron under the same conditions corrodes in 190 years. When exposed to fresh water and the weather the periods are 170 years for steel and 630 years for iron.



HARD TO BEAR.
When the back aches and pains so badly, can't work, can't rest, can't sleep, can't eat, it is hard to bear.

Thousands of aching backs have been relieved and cured.

People are learning that backache pains come from disordered kidneys, that Doan's Kidney Pills cure every Kidney ill, cure Bladder troubles, urinary derangements, Dropsy, Diabetes, Bright's Disease.

Read this testimony to the merit of the greatest of Kidney Specifics.

J. W. Wallis, superintendent of streets of Lebanon, Ky., living on East Main street in that city, says:

"With my nightly rest broken, owing to irregularities of the kidneys, suffering intensely from severe pains in the small of my back and through the kidneys, and annoyed by painful passages of abnormal secretions, life was anything but pleasant for me. No amount of doctoring relieved this condition and for the reason that nothing seemed to give me even temporary relief, I became about discouraged. One day I noticed in the newspapers the case of a man who was afflicted as I was and was cured by the use of Doan's Kidney Pills. His words of praise for this remedy were so sincere that on the strength of his statement I went to the Hugh Murray Drug Co.'s store and got a box. I found that the medicine was exactly as powerful a kidney remedy as represented. I experienced quick and lasting relief. Doan's Kidney Pills will prove a blessing to all sufferers from kidney disorders who will give them a fair trial."

A FREE TRIAL of this great kidney medicine which cured Mr. Wallis will be mailed to any part of the United States on application. Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists. Price 50 cents per box.

"You seem to have a lot of trouble with Ham," remarked Mrs. Noah, slipping on her rainy-day skirt. "Yes, indeed," responded Mr. Noah; "I can't keep that boy away from the opium."

Superior quality and extra quantity must win. This is why Defiance Starch is taking the place of all others.

"What kind of a girl is she?" "Oh, she's one of the kind that would be perfectly willing to get married in a balloon at a county fair."

"It beats all!" how good a cigar you can buy for 5 cents if you buy the right brand. Try a "Bullhead."

There is over 32,000 miles of pipe laid in the United States conveying natural gas from wells to consumers.

Stops the Cough and Works Off the Cold
Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Price 35c.

Sunday School Teacher—Well, who was sorry at the return of the prodigal son? Little Girl—The fattest calf.

The secret of the popularity of Baxter's "Bullhead" 5-cent cigar is revealed in one word—"Quality."

"I was just telling my daughter," said Mrs. Noosens, "that it's really a shame for her to play the piano on Sunday." "Why did you mention Sunday, particularly?" asked Mrs. Pepprey.

WITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE \$4.00 trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 511 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Ball Player—Did you say you were on the scrub team? Scrubbs—Yes, sah; I works in a laundry.

No chromes or cheap premiums, but a better quality and one-third more of Defiance Starch for the same price of other starches.

When the average actor announces himself as a "star," his associates are apt to pronounce the word backward.

I do not believe Pico's Cure for Consumption has an equal for coughs and colds.—JOHN F. BORMA, Trinity Springs, Ind., Feb. 18, 1900.

Though the world may owe every man a living only the persistent collector gets it.

The mildest tobacco that grows is used in the make-up of Baxter's Bullhead 5-cent cigar. Try one and see.

When a man is going to the dogs he usually meets the dogs about half way.

"Do you think Josh's intentions will work?" asked Mrs. Cornsmead. "I hope so," answered her husband. "I know mighty well that Josh won't."

DON'T GET WET!

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR THE **SLICKER**

MADE FAMOUS BY A REPUTATION EXTENDING OVER MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY.

TOWER'S garments and hats are made of the best materials in black or yellow for all kinds of wet work.

SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED IF YOU PRICE TO THE SIGN OF THE FISH.

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